

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 23 MAY 2004

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

Reception reports on the 10,130 MHz experimental relay will be appreciated.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za and on packet bulletin boards.

SILENT KEYS

It is with regret that we have to announce the passing away of two radio amateurs.

Johnny, ZS3AAL, passed away on the 27th April on account of a massive heart attack.

Ossie Carstens, ZS1DZ, died in his bed at the Helen Keller Home in Pinelands early on Saturday evening 1st of May. He's survived by daughter Kim and two sons, Storm and Dain and their families. A long time member of the Cape Town Amateur Radio Centre and for many years the national JOTA co-ordinator for the South African Scout Association. Ossie will be deeply missed by his many friends.

Our deepest sympathy to the relatives and friends of the two deceased radio amateurs.

(PAUSE)

In the news today:

SARL COUNCIL MEETINGS

Z2 QSL BUREAU CLOSED DOWN

INTECNET TO DISCUSS ALL YOU CAN DO AS A RADIO AMATEUR

Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items.

Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SARL NEWS invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to amateurs on the web site of the SARL, which is www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English.

You are listening to ZS6SRL.

The news follows in detail.

SARL COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Council of the SARL meets every six weeks by teleconference. The next meeting is on June 2. If you have a matter that you wish to have discussed by the Council, please send it to the Secretary of the Council. The Secretary then forwards it to all the members of the Council, but for the attention of the Councillor in whose portfolio it resorts. If the particular Councillor cannot deal with the matter by himself, it will be discussed by the full Council. Such messages must reach the Secretary one week before the Council meeting.

You can communicate with the SARL Council by sending e-mail to secretary@sarl.org.za or on packet to ZS1AAZ@ZS0STB. The Council of the SARL is intent on promoting communication with the amateur community in general.

Z2 QSL BUREAU CLOSED DOWN

Don, G3BJ, announced the following: "At the Zimbabwe Amateur Radio Society (ZARS) council meeting held on May 3, 2004, ZARS took the decision to close the Zimbabwe QSL Bureau. This is simply due to the excessive cost of services that are now prevalent in Zimbabwe.

The main cost is for the posting of cards to the various bureaus around the world. This is coupled with a declining number of members such that reasonable subscriptions can no longer support the costs of running the bureau. ZARS has recommended to members that QSL Managers be sought if they do not already have a manager. A number have taken up the suggestion and arrangements have been made. Member societies should note this information and advise their QSL managers accordingly."

This is indeed a sad occurrence in the history of amateur radio in Zimbabwe and we cannot let it pass without recalling some magnificent achievements of and contributions made by Zimbabwean radio amateurs to amateur radio in the past.

The most outstanding that the general amateur radio community may probably remember are the first EME contacts in Africa by Peter Carey, then ZE5JJ and now ZS6JT and residing in Centurion, Gauteng.

Peter was the first to achieve EME in Africa and he did it on 432 MHz with Dr. Allen Katz which resulted in the first WAC in the world on 432 MHz for Dr. Katz. Later Peter conducted a QSO with Dr. Charles Suckling on 1296 MHz, again another first in Africa.

Another first, and really prior to the EME, in early 1960 a small group of the amateurs started building equipment to receive signals from satellites which resulted in them assisting Dr. James van Allen at the Iowa State University in his attempt to map the Lower Radiation Belt which was later called the van Allen Belt. Later in the research they were even authorised by Dr van Allen

to command the satellite used, and that before computers were used for that purpose!!

We honour these radio amateurs for what they achieved.

RADIO ZS

The March-April issue of Radio ZS is available for download on the SARL website at www.sarl.org.za. It is 1.6 MB in size.

The editor is looking for articles for the next issue of Radio ZS and requests members to submit material for publication. Suitable photographs for the cover of Radio ZS are also required. The material can be sent in MSWord or Word-Perfect format. Pictures can be sent as jpg or bmp files. Items may be emailed to radiozs@sarl.org.za or sent to the call book address of Dennis ZS4BS.

INTECNET TO DISCUSS ALL YOU CAN DO AS A RADIO AMATEUR

The next INTECNET will be held on Sunday 30 May at 20:00. Several radio amateurs and special interest groups will share their activities and discuss how you can get more fun being a radio amateur. It promises to be a very exciting programme

Clubs wishing to link their repeaters to the network should send an email to armi@sarl.org.za with the telephone number to be linked. Unfortunately cell-phones and pre-paid phones cannot be linked. Please also indicate the repeater to be linked, frequency and coverage area.

WILLEM PRINSLOO AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM “MAMPOER” FEST VISIT

The annual Willem Prinsloo Agricultural Museum “Mampoer” Fest visit (Bring and Braai) will take place on the 29th May.

The visit is being co-ordinated by the Centurion Radio Amateur club for all interested radio amateurs and shortwave listeners.

Discount was obtained and entrance fees will be R10,00 per adult and R5,00 per child.

The organisers also requested that a combined effort of the Amateur hobby be on display for the day.

Interested persons please contact Whitey Joubert, ZR6 JJJ, at 082-416-7250 or CAS ZS6RA at 082-463-1551 in order to qualify for entrance and discount. Fires for braai will be available.

RESULTS OF EAST RAND RADIO CLUB FOX HUNT

The East Rand Radio Club hosted a hidden transmitter tracing exercise, better known as a fox hunt on the 15th May.

The transmitter with an output 6 W was placed in the Boksburg Bokkie Park. The teams started at the East Rand Radio Clubhouse in Springs armed with only a map of the area and the frequency on which the fox transmitted.

The fox was found in under 2 hours by contestants, showing skill and cunning in sniffing out the foxy culprit. The results are as follows:

1st Place: Hennie, ZS6HEB, Jaques, ZS6WDL, and Sally; 2nd Place: Retha, ZR6XT, and Pieter, ZS6XT; 3rd Place: John, ZS6ABJ, Sakkie, ZS6BPA.

A special word of thanks to Sam for sponsoring one of the prizes!

STEAM TRAIN ADVENTURE

All hams and their families are invited by the East Rand Radio Club to participate in the Steam Train Adventure to the Koster Mampoor Festival on 5 September 2004. We leave at 06:00 and will be back 12 hours later. Fun for the whole family.

Bookings are essential before end of June. Contact Johanna Harris @ 011-814-2121 during office hours to confirm bookings.

EAST RAND FLEA MARKET

The East Rand Radio Club invites all to a flea market on the 2nd October at the clubhouse in Springs. The activities will start at 08:00.

PROPAGATION CONDITIONS

Kobus, ZS6KOB, reported that as expected conditions improved somewhat during the past week. The sunspot number did increase but started to decrease again towards the end of the week. This pattern repeats itself approximately every 27 days and is directly coupled to the 27 days that the sun takes to revolve around its own axis. On Friday the sunspot number was 56,3 as against that of last week's 48,5. The expectation is that it will decrease over the next few days. It is very interesting that the sunspot number increased quickly, but for a very short period only, to as high as 148. The good DX lover must never be caught off sides by such an occurrence, it happens regularly, don't be discouraged by a low sunspot number. At the time the 15 m band was beautifully open towards the east. Propagation conditions were in general weak to reasonable. Conditions may at times be good between 21 and 23 May.

ACTIVITIES IN WHICH TO PARTICIPATE

29th May, the forthcoming Saturday, the visit to the Willem Prinsloo Agricultural Museum "Mampoor" fest; Next Sunday, the 30th May, the President's net will again be on the air at 12:00 on different frequencies; 30th May INTECH-NET at 20:00; 30th June the last day to book for the steam train visit to the Koster Mampoor festival on 5 September; 2nd October, flea market at the East Rand Radio Club.

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 815, 9 750, and 7 082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban 145,750 MHz in Pretoria and 438,800 in the Sandton area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by George, ZS6NE, and read byfrom..... as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX